

LEEDS



The magazine for alumni
of the University of Leeds

Issue No. 24
2023



Moscow calling

The BBC's Steve Rosenberg talks about
the year that changed Russia for ever



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS



From the Editor

What are your first Leeds memories? I can vividly remember arriving – laden with numerous bags, some bedding, and boxes of assorted dry groceries – on a damp, dark September afternoon. The people I met that day more than made up for the autumnal weather, as did a quirkily labyrinthine campus to inhabit and explore, and lecturers who would inspire and challenge me in the years to come. It was all both wonderful and daunting in equal measure.

Coming to Leeds was a big influence on the lives of many other alumni you'll read about here, including a BBC correspondent, a humanitarian trauma surgeon and a rugby league international. Some of our current students also talk about what it's like to study at Leeds today.

And on a global scale, we find out about the impact of Leeds research on people's lives, from better understanding equatorial weather patterns to using the power of arts to engage young people in societies affected by conflict.

Leeds remains, in all senses, a life-changer.

Happy reading!

Phil Steel

(English Language and Literature 1997)
Head of Alumni and Supporter Engagement

From our Vice-Chancellor

New beginnings as campus comes alive

Vice-Chancellor Simone Buitendijk reflects on a campus re-awakening from the challenges of the pandemic.

The start of this academic year felt very special. For the first time in three years our students could fully enjoy the events and activities of Welcome Week – a time many of us remember as a formative part of our own university experience.

This celebratory atmosphere continued with Campus Live, a vibrant programme of music, theatre, dance and crafts which turned a spotlight on the talents of our staff, students and alumni throughout the autumn term.

Having joined the University at the height of lockdown, this was my first opportunity to experience our campus at its very best. It was a fitting way to celebrate everything the Leeds community has done over the past three years – those who joined the COVID-19 frontline, those who ensured that our mission to teach and research was maintained in periods of lockdown and social distancing, and of course the students who have achieved so much under difficult circumstances.

This year's freshers have themselves had a very different experience during their secondary education. It's wonderful to now see them so happy, with a sense of excitement about being in a place where people learn and change the world together.

Throughout the crisis, we never lost our sense of purpose. Nor were we deflected from our strategic goal of harnessing the expertise, creativity and collaborative potential of our whole community to help shape a more equitable, sustainable world. Our alumni are a vital part of that community. It was wonderful to meet so many of you at our House of Lords reception in June, where I felt your tangible sense of pride in an institution truly making a difference.

The impact we can make is exemplified by our decades of work to improve our understanding of tropical climate – work which has saved lives, averted catastrophes, and was honoured by the award of a Queen's Anniversary Prize this year.

This accolade was given extra poignancy by the death of Her Majesty the Queen in September. Many of you shared moving tributes and stories of your own meetings with her, here in the UK and around the globe. Leeds was one of very few universities invited to the funeral service, and it was an enormous privilege to represent our whole community in Westminster Abbey on this saddest of occasions. To be among those taking part in this historic pageantry was humbling.

I was particularly moved by what the Archbishop of Canterbury said about the Queen setting an example of humble 'servant leadership'. This was an important message to world leaders, to government ministers – and to those of us who have been entrusted with running fantastic universities like yours.



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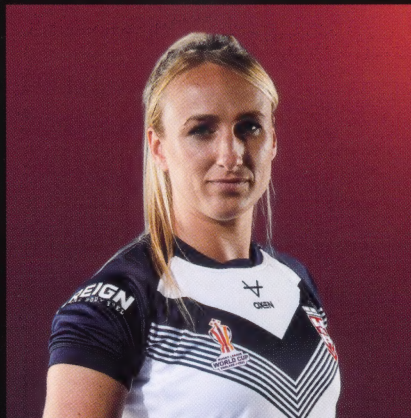
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Email us at alumni@leeds.ac.uk,
look for @leedsalumni online.

The BBC's Russia Editor Steve Rosenberg (Russian 1991)
reflects on Ukraine, Putin, the death of Gorbachev – and Leeds.

Moscow calling



It was a cold dark February morning in Moscow. Steve Rosenberg was in bed, but was woken by a phone call: “It was London calling. Putin had appeared on Russian state television with an address to the nation announcing that he had given the order for – what he still calls – the special military operation in Ukraine.”

In that moment, the veteran BBC Russia Editor had little time to think about the enormity of what had just happened. “The news operation rolls into action,” he says. “You have to get into the office, get on air, write the despatch, appear on live TV, do the Today programme.

“It was only at the end of the day, in the few minutes I had to pause, that the enormity of that event became clear to me. Life wouldn’t be the same, life couldn’t be the same.”

Thursday 24th February 2022 was a watershed moment for the Russia that Steve had known. He first moved to Moscow in 1991, four months before the collapse of the Soviet Union. But despite the chaos of the end of the Communist regime, Russia’s war with Ukraine is the event that – according to Steve – changed the course of Russia for ever.

“This feels like a different place now. If I look back over the last 30 years, yes it’s been a tumultuous time. The 90s were crazy, millions of people were pushed into poverty by the collapse of the Soviet Union. And yet, many people had some hope that life would get better. There was freedom of speech, and at least you could turn some television channels on and they’d be criticising the government. But that hope has virtually disappeared now.”

Steve’s journey to Moscow began at the School of Languages in Leeds, where he became obsessed with Russia.

“I remember every lunchtime they’d wheel out this satellite television and show Soviet TV. And I sat there just watching these programmes on combine harvesters and Perestroika. I was absolutely hooked. It was because of that experience I decided to move to Russia.

“I absolutely loved the Russian department. It was small and it inspired me to fall in love with the Russian language and the country.”

One of his Russian teachers got him a contract to teach English at the Moscow Machine and Tool Institute. Shortly after the Soviet Union’s collapse, Steve got a job answering phones at US broadcaster CBS News, before becoming an assistant producer.

He then had a brief flirtation with teletext: “I had a summer job working for Ceefax, and I got a grant from the European Union to start Russia’s first teletext company. Some university friends came over and we did this teletext service. We got a deal with Russian state television. It was really good fun. I remember all the Russian state television officials thought we were making millions. And of course it made nothing, and this at a time when Russian oligarchs actually were making millions.”

His dreams of becoming a teletext oligarch dashed, Steve returned to CBS, but in 1997 achieved his lifelong ambition of joining the BBC.

“When I was a kid, I always knew I wanted to work for the BBC. It sounds strange doesn’t it? But I watched a lot of telly when I was young. For some reason, the BBC made a real impression on me.

“As a kid, I used to write loads of letters to different parts of the organisation – to radio and television and the World Service. And I used to go and visit different parts of the BBC.”

Steve joked that he “bombarded” the corporation with letters, and he still has the letters he received as a child from BBC television executives. But that passion eventually landed him his first job at the corporation’s Russia bureau, where he continues to work.

He has frequently been praised for his defiance when holding the authorities to account, from spy chiefs to the Russian president. In 2018 former Russian military officer Sergei Skripal was poisoned in a Russian nerve agent attack in Salisbury, in England. Many Western governments suggested the attack had been ordered by Vladimir Putin, which led Steve to confront the Russian president, during a press outing at an agricultural centre.

“You don’t really have time to think about it too much. You just do it. I just asked the question. The Kremlin wasn’t too pleased, but we had to do it. And it was a chance to get President Putin’s reaction.”

Putin brushed off the question, saying the British authorities needed to get to the bottom of the poisoning, and he was only interested in talking about the agricultural centre. But it was one of the few times he directly responded to the accusations. →



Media scrum – Steve Rosenberg interviews former Ronald Reagan adviser Suzanne Massie outside Pillar Hall in Moscow, where Mikhail Gorbachev’s body lay in state.

The story so far...

1991

Steve graduates from the University of Leeds and starts teaching English in Moscow.

1997

After working at CBS News, Steve is hired as a producer at the BBC’s Moscow Bureau.

2021

Steve interviews ‘Europe’s last dictator’, Belarusian leader Alexander Lukashenko.

2022

The BBC’s Russia Editor reports on Putin’s invasion of Ukraine, and the death of Mikhail Gorbachev.

Outside of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Steve's work in the Eastern Bloc has also been praised. He recently interviewed Alexander Lukashenko, dubbed by the media as Europe's last dictator. The Belarusian leader had been criticised for detaining and beating his critics, and for rigging presidential elections. His regime was also accused of assisting migrants to illegally cross the border with the EU.

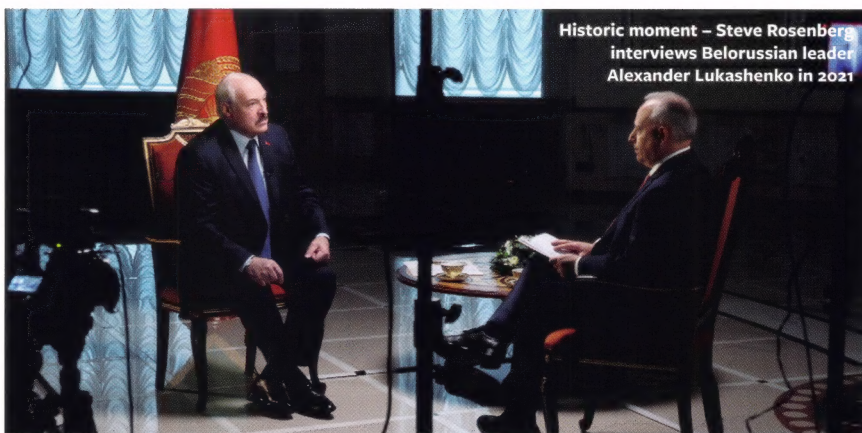
"We didn't expect him to agree to the interview, but he did. We were dressed for the mud, and the outdoor areas of the border. So we had to rush back to Minsk to get ready for this interview; I had to buy a suit, buy shoes.

"My producer Will and I would have these training sessions, where we'd walk around a lake, he'd be Lukashenko and I'd be me. It was a good way of gaming out what might happen."

He recalls the moment he arrived at the Presidential Palace: "I shouldn't really say presidential, because Europe doesn't recognise him as president. But when you arrive at his palace, it's very imposing. Then in comes Mr Lukashenko, and he's considerably taller than me. And then you start the interview.

"It was such a strange experience because there were moments when he was trying to bully me, and then moments where he seemed to be like a three-year-old child. You have to try and keep things on track and interrupt. You can't let him come out with streams of misinformation."

The version that ended up on Belarusian state TV had all of Steve's interruptions edited out, but the unedited version showed the BBC's Russia Editor taking Lukashenko to task, which led to some shocking admissions by the authoritarian leader – including that his regime had beaten and detained political opponents.



Historic moment – Steve Rosenberg interviews Belorussian leader Alexander Lukashenko in 2021

One friendlier interviewee was the man synonymous with the fall of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev. Steve said, "In the mid-80s, Gorbachev was on our TV screens all the time. He was one of the most powerful people in the world, he was clearly trying to change the world. I never dreamt that I'd actually get to meet the man."

Not only did Steve meet and interview Gorbachev, he even serenaded him. "Gorbachev had a piano in the corner of his office, and after one interview our camera operator Rachel pointed to the piano and said, 'Mr Gorbachev do you play?'"

"He said, 'No, do any of you?'"

"I said I did, and I sat down and started playing Moscow Nights. Gorbachev started singing, and for the next ten minutes he was singing various songs. I learned more about the man in those few musical minutes than the whole political interview I'd just done. He really came across as very warm-hearted, very sincere, and clearly someone who loved his wife Raisa. She died a few years earlier, and he was singing some of her favourite songs."

For Steve, the death of Gorbachev in August was the end of an era.

"Two moments this year have felt that way. The first was the invasion of Ukraine and the second was the death of Gorbachev. It felt like a whole page of modern Russian history had been turned, and now the country was really entering a darker chapter.

"Gorbachev's funeral really felt like this was the end of a dramatic chapter of Russian history, and perhaps a rare chapter where Russia had tried to open up to the world and taken steps towards freedom of speech, and to becoming a democratic society. But Russia is now very much moving in another direction."

"We live week-by-week and it feels since 24th February that we're in freefall."

A curtailment of press freedoms led the BBC to temporarily suspend reporting from Russia in March, after fears that draconian laws could lead to journalists being imprisoned. One of Steve's colleagues, Sarah Rainsford, had been barred from returning to Russia in 2021. Steve himself is no stranger to intimidatory tactics, and is frequently followed by Russian state officials while he is reporting.

So does he ever fear his own time in Russia could come to an abrupt end? "I have built a life here, my wife is Russian and I've lived more than half my life here. But I accept that this could happen, I'd be silly not to accept this. We live week-by-week and it feels since 24th February that we're in freefall. Anything could happen at any moment, but if you worry about that too much, then it would be very difficult to operate.

"Having my family, having the piano, and being able to get away from this crazy situation, really helps."



A surprising double act – Steve at the piano, Mikhail Gorbachev on vocals



Woman of Steel

Rugby league international Jodie Cunningham (Medical Sciences 2013) led St Helens to the first treble in the history of Women's Super League. Talking on the eve of the 2022 Rugby League World Cup, she explains the role that Leeds played in her elite sport journey.

How did you start playing rugby league?

I started at secondary school. A national schools competition for girls started up and my friend managed to convince lots of us to give it a go. We went on to be national champions, and I fell in love with the sport.

What is it about rugby?

I love the physicality. It's empowering to go out on the field as a young girl and now as an adult, and it gave me so much confidence.

What role did Leeds play in your sporting journey?

The University didn't have a rugby league team back then, but I played with the union side – having not watched a game of union in my life – and I loved it. I think it made me a better rugby league player. At the end of my third year, I was selected for the Rugby League World Cup in England.

I actually took the England girls on an Otley Run for some team bonding recently. We had an amazing time and it brought back a lot of great memories.

Did you go to Headingley Stadium much when you were in Leeds?

I lived on St Michael's Lane, really close by. I'd go and watch all the Leeds Rhinos games – although as a Saints player now, and a Warrington fan growing up, I can't say I ever fully committed to supporting them.

Tell us about that first World Cup in 2013.

To represent your country is the proudest moment of your life. It was an incredible experience. We lost to Australia and it was a huge wake up call. We knew there was a lot of work to do in terms of domestic rugby league, and it gave me the hunger to do more – and to one day lift the World Cup, which I'll hopefully do in the 2022 tournament. Our opening game is in Headingley so it's going to be really special.

How did it feel to be named Woman of Steel in 2022, awarded to the player of the year in the Women's Super League?

It was a lovely accolade to receive. It's something I'd always wanted to achieve before retiring, and it was really special to do it in such a successful year; the team went unbeaten, lifting three trophies.

And what are your plans for the future?

I am so passionate about getting more girls involved in the sport, and I am now the national women and girls development manager, a new role in the governing body for rugby league.

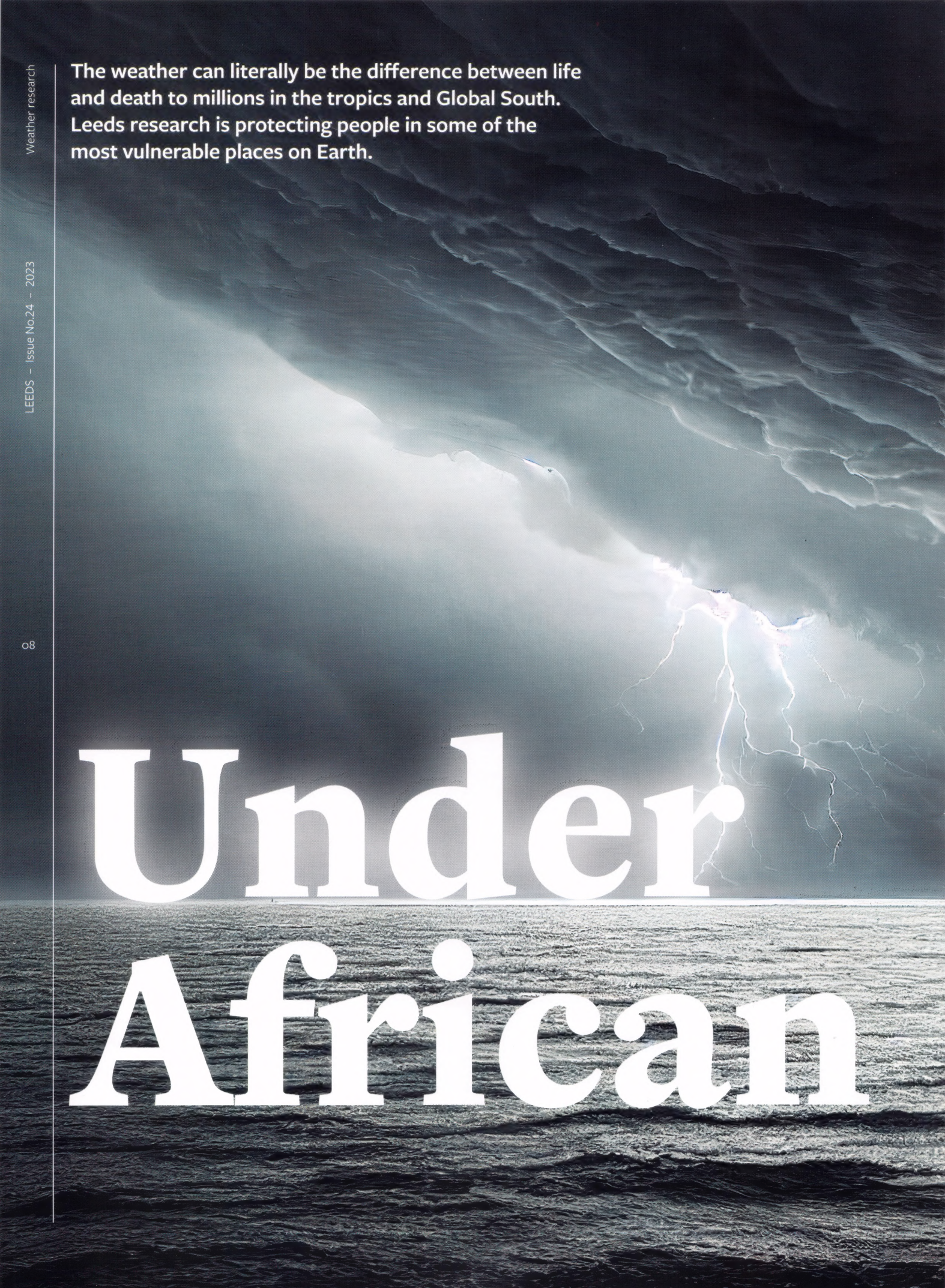
And of course, I want to win the World Cup.



Listen to Jodie in our Forever Leeds podcast.

The weather can literally be the difference between life and death to millions in the tropics and Global South. Leeds research is protecting people in some of the most vulnerable places on Earth.

Under African



In 2016, Typhoon Haiyan devastated the Philippines, leaving thousands dead and two million homeless. Every year, hundreds of fishermen are killed in thunderstorms on Lake Victoria. Almost a million people died in Ethiopia's famines of the 1980s.

These catastrophes highlight how the tropics and the Global South are vulnerable to variations in the weather and our changing climate. For human health, for vital resources of food and water – and in the extremes of drought, storm and flood – the weather is critical to billions of lives.

Over the past 25 years, Leeds has built a mass of expertise in weather and climate science. Applying this to the urgent issues of the tropics and the Global South has brought vast community benefit – a step-change in tropical weather forecasting, new warning systems to alert communities of imminent danger, protection for forests and better guidance for farmers and fishermen.

The work is led by Professor of Meteorology Doug Parker: “Everyone of a certain age can remember the Ethiopian famine of 1984-5 – shocking reports on the news, and international responses like Live Aid,” he says. “This alerted the world to the vulnerability of millions to extreme weather, but also showed how a lack of basic scientific understanding held back the accurate forecasting of these catastrophic events.

“The regions which most urgently needed climate information were those least able to provide it.”

Tropical weather processes are very different to those of Western Europe; our tried and tested forecasting models simply don't work for those parts of the

world. “Weather is affected by two main factors: the sun and the earth's rotation. It's the latter that has the biggest impact in the UK, and we're now pretty good at predicting the big rotating systems of high and low pressure.”

Closer to the equator, the sun has a much greater influence: “The tropics are like the engine room of the Earth's climate system. The heat from the sun and the warm oceans provide the energy to drive global atmospheric circulation. But because climate science has always been predominantly funded and conducted in the Northern Hemisphere, our forecasting models weren't geared to these factors.”

“The regions which most urgently needed climate information were those least able to provide it.”

Leeds has addressed this shortfall head-on, developing forecasting models which work in the tropics: “Years of intensive work have given us a much deeper understanding of monsoon systems, thunderstorms, dust storms and other key components of tropical weather systems. And we're building the scientific capacity of local agencies to apply this knowledge and develop it further – so now we can give communities warning of impending hazards.”

And while some observations and measurements can be made from the ground and from satellites, often Doug has taken to the skies, flying close to the eye of the storm. A laboratory aboard a specially-converted aircraft operated by the UK's Facility for Airborne Atmospheric Measurements allows

scientists to monitor cloud formations, air quality – and gathering storms. “As the mission scientist, you have to guide the pilot to where you need to be for the project. It's thrilling, but not always the smoothest flight.”

The work has already helped increase the accuracy of storm alerts to more than two million people in Senegal's fishing and farming communities and informed guidance to tackle Kenya's locust outbreak in 2019. It has also potentially saved lives by leading to advance warning of landslides and mudslides in Kenya in 2019 and flooding in Budulangi on Lake Victoria in May 2020.

The research is also impacting on other communities in the tropics, such as giving more accurate predictions of tropical cyclone paths in the Bay of Bengal and providing the science to underpin the protection of Amazonian forest.

There are health benefits too. Weather forecasting is giving advance warning of the hot, dusty, dry conditions which can spark a meningitis outbreak, and is supporting maternity services to prepare for the extreme heat which can negatively affect expectant mothers and their babies.

Computer power and smartphones are now giving people access to the information they need to make crucial and potentially lifesaving decisions. ‘Nowcasting’ harnesses statistics, computational tools, image processing and machine learning to produce short-term forecasts and provide immediate warnings of approaching storms. The Forecasting African Storms Application (FASTA) app puts this live information into the hands of fishermen and farmers. →

skies

“When I began my fieldwork in Africa, there was no internet and we didn’t have mobile phones,” says Doug.

“We were doing things by fax or landline and reading hard copies of weather forecasts in hotel bedrooms. But now, with the internet allowing us to use satellite solutions more widely and giving people greater access, we’re on the verge of a revolution in weather forecasting.”



Doug Parker, Professor of Meteorology

A hallmark of Leeds research over the past 25 years has been establishing partnerships with local agencies and institutions, working with those closest to the issues, and ensuring the findings are channelled into real-world applications. At the same time, the University has developed the skills of researchers and professionals across the tropics, fostering the creation of a new generation of scientists to take the work on into the future.

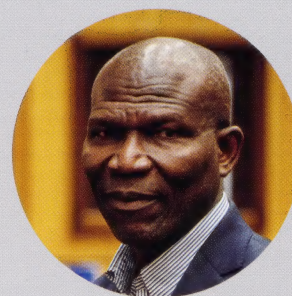
“Something struck me on my first trip to Africa,” says Doug. “I overheard someone question whether the data we were producing would actually help ordinary people. You have to make sure you empower local communities.”

Leeds was instrumental in establishing a new Meteorology and Climate Science programme at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Ghana and has delivered training to forecasters and scientists in the Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore, Vietnam, Malaysia and the Caribbean. The long-term impact is underpinned by former Leeds PhD and post-doctoral researchers now embedded in key roles across the tropics in the weather and climate services, in government, in the water and power industries, in forestry, fishery and agriculture agencies and in transport.

“This is the legacy of the work we do,” says Doug. “We are putting the knowledge to prepare for the future into the hands of those who need it most, while building their capacity to face the emergent challenges of tomorrow.”

Even so, climate change remains the critical issue. Despite a commitment from governments to limit the rise in global temperatures, the impacts of global warming across the tropics are only likely to grow. “We know temperatures will continue to rise,” says Doug. “That means extreme weather events and crises are going to get bigger and more frequent.”

“In Africa, the climate is already changing – and the need for greater resilience can only become yet more acute. Our work has never been more relevant or more in demand.”



Ben Lamptey

Renowned climate expert Benjamin Lamptey of the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development in Ghana has worked alongside colleagues in Leeds.

“In Africa we are already seeing more floods and droughts,” he says. “We need science to inform policies and strategies to reduce emissions and mitigate climate change. But we also need better infrastructure, particularly around forecasting, to understand when extreme weather might occur – and minimise its impacts.”

Dr Lamptey’s time in Leeds was made possible by a Cheney Fellowship, supported by an alumni donor.

Research wins Royal accolade

The recent award of a prestigious Queen’s Anniversary Prize – the UK’s highest accolade for universities and colleges – recognised decades of research into tropical weather systems and climate science at Leeds.

Awarded every two years since 1994, the Queen’s Anniversary Prizes celebrate excellence, innovation and public benefit in further and higher education. This is the third time that the University has won – previous awards have gone to the Institute for Transport Studies and the Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Simone Buitendijk congratulated the team: “Our research in tropical climate examines the issues from many different angles – climate science, engineering, social sciences and policy-making.

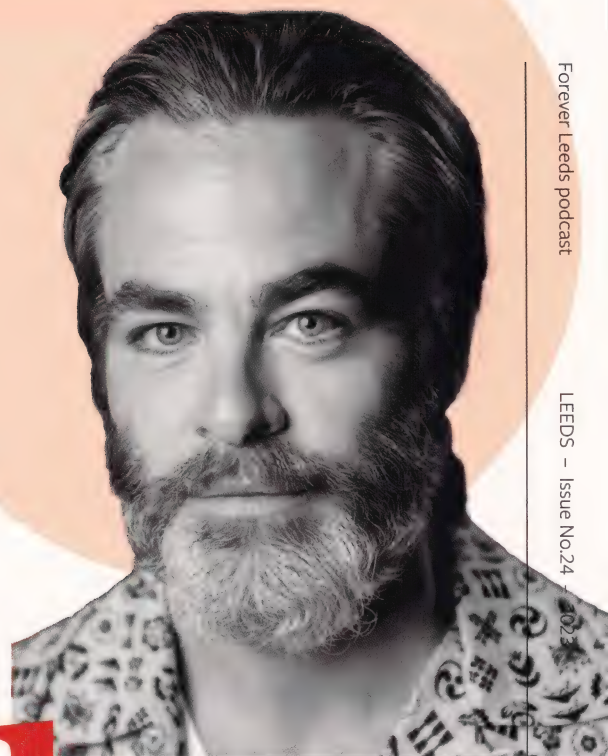
“This work is exemplary of our strategy, which sets out a vision for a University which is led by its values and harnesses the expertise, creativity and collaborative potential of all its people to help shape a more equitable and sustainable world.”



Leeds is ranked in the top two universities worldwide for creating partnerships that work towards the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals.

Forever Leeds is the podcast for everyone who has studied at the University. Here are some of the alumni who have featured so far...

The sound of Leeds



Chris Pine

For blockbuster Hollywood actor **Chris Pine** (JYA English 2001), a barbecue at his Brudenell Road home was the “glorious cap to a great year”.

It's worth listening to our Forever Leeds podcast to hear famous actors, business leaders, elite athletes and more – who all loved studying at Leeds.

Neil Cross (English and Theology 1994, MA English 1995) speaks about the conflicting forces that led to his television series *Luther*, starring Idris Elba.

Mountaineer Kenton Cool (Geological Sciences 1994, Hon LLD 2018) spoke just after his record-breaking 16th ascent of Mount Everest.

Superstar podcaster Pandora Sykes (English 2009) reminisces about waking up early to buy the first iPhone in Leeds.

Did the 60s swing in Leeds? Bestselling author Helen Rappaport (Russian 1970, Hon DLitt 2017) has tales to tell.

A Lloyds Bank director, Fiona Cannon OBE (English 1985), credits Leeds for awakening her passion for equality.

And, from campus, you'll hear the flurry of student life, gain insight from leading researchers and hear fascinating stories from the University's past.



Martine Croxall

TV journalist **Martine Croxall** (Geography 1990) tells how she accessed a nightclub through a trap door in the Merrion Centre.



Picture courtesy Bill Bruford archive

Bill Bruford

Celebrated drummer **Bill Bruford** (Economics and Sociology student 1968) recalls leaving Leeds to join a new rock band called Yes.



Amanda Blanc

For **Amanda Blanc** (MBA 1999), Group CEO of Aviva and Women in Finance Champion, “the Leeds experience opened my eyes to what was possible”.

Listen to Forever Leeds

The podcast is produced monthly and also includes in-depth interviews on world-leading research being done at Leeds, and news on upcoming events. Listen at foreverleeds.captivate.fm, or search Forever Leeds wherever you get your podcasts.





The gift of time

Henschel Freduah-Agyemang arrived at high school knowing very little English. Thanks to his determination to succeed – and with a little help from Jane Austen – he is now studying medicine at Leeds, and is an inspiration to others hoping to follow in his footsteps.

At the age of ten, Henschel moved from Ghana to join his mother and two siblings in the UK, where he had to adjust quickly to a new country, culture and language.

“I had to learn English at an older age which made school a lot more difficult. I remember I found it hard to understand how words and phrases should be used in context; I would try and mimic others and get it wrong.

A teacher encouraged me to read the classics – Austen, Bronte and Dickens – and I fell in love with the language and with learning, which really grounded me in my new home.”

Henschel thrived at school, excelled in the sciences and, with the support of a scholarship, began his studies in medicine and surgery in 2020 at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

He says the generosity of our alumni and other donors has been critical to his development at Leeds, enabling him to make the most of his university experience: “My scholarship has helped me take up so many opportunities – including attending conferences, volunteering and doing work placements to boost my experience.”

As a scholar, Henschel also benefits from the University’s Plus Programme. This initiative helps students who come from backgrounds which are less well represented at university, supporting their transition to student life and helping them to thrive at Leeds.

One aspect of this support is giving eligible students access to additional funding to take up opportunities for personal, academic and professional development. This fund allowed Henschel to put his medical training to use during a life-affirming placement: “I went to Ghana to work in a clinic in the summer of 2021. I developed hands-on clinical skills which, because of the pandemic, I hadn’t been able to do during my first year. It was incredible to get back to Ghana and I learned a lot there – not only about medicine but about myself and the world.”

Henschel was also awarded an EXSEL scholarship, a programme which enables talented medical undergraduates to undertake research with some of the University’s leading academics. “I found out about the EXSEL scholarship in one of the Plus Programme newsletters and got to work on a project looking at how artificial intelligence can be used in the diagnosis of disease. It was a great opportunity to experience what a career in medical research could be like, and see whether this is what I want to pursue after Leeds.

“A teacher encouraged me to read the classics – Austen, Bronte and Dickens – and I fell in love with the language and with learning,”

“From this research project sprung my presentation at the International Conference of Undergraduate Research and my poster presentation at a conference in Las Vegas earlier this year.”

To give back, Henschel is now acting as an inspiration to others, volunteering his free time to help and encourage future generations of students who want to study medicine: “Medicine is a really demanding course but because of my scholarship I’ve not needed to work part-time around my studies.

“This has given me the time to volunteer at a charity which supports students from less advantaged backgrounds who are hoping to get into medicine.

“I started out as a mentor, where I provided guidance, instruction, and insight into how my mentees can tackle each stage of the medicine application processes – from picking medical schools, to applications and interviews. I was so happy when my first two mentees got into medical school; it gave me a real sense of satisfaction and what I had been doing was worthwhile and I had helped someone.”

Henschel now helps to run the programme – organising workshops and mentoring sessions. This has helped him to build his confidence and leadership skills and, at a conference for sixth form students, Henschel co-led a workshop on how to get into medicine.

And he credits the support of donors as being critical to all of this work, to the diversity of his University experience, and to his success at Leeds: “I really appreciate all the opportunities which have been opened to me thanks to the support of our donors,” he says. “I can’t thank them enough.”

And he adds: “People say that money can’t buy you time, but in my case that is exactly what it has done. You have allowed me to pour my time into what most interests me about my course – and into helping others.”



Scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/Leeds_Students_22 to hear Henschel talking in his own words about his remarkable journey – and about the impact of his scholarship on his Leeds experience.



Remember your first time?

"I took a photograph of Pablo Fanque's grave in St George's Fields and sent it to my friend who is a fan of the Beatles."
Erik Resendiz Mora
(PhD Chemical Engineering 2021)

"The Brotherton Library was beautiful and ornate, and so quiet that the whole room echoed when you moved your chair." Hollie Tansey
(Fashion Marketing 2019)

"I was most impressed by Red Route, which was the longest corridor I had ever seen. To this day I have the urge to ride a bicycle down it!" Clare Butler Ellis
(Physics 1982)

"I was confused by the ground floor of the Marjorie and Arnold Ziff building being labelled as Level 8" Natalia Novello (Theatre and Performance 2021)

"My interview was in the Old Medical School in Great George Street. I was ushered into the Dean's office for my interview and he almost immediately fell asleep."
Allan Harris (Medicine 1973)

"I loved reading the copy of the Gryphon I picked up."
Ellie Shipp (Geography 2021)

"I was bowled over by my first view of the Roger Stevens Building where I had the obligatory go in the paternoster lift." Nigel Pepper
(Biochemistry and Microbiology 1984)

For more of your campus memories or to add more of your own, visit spotlight.leeds.ac.uk/campus-memories/ or scan this QR code



We asked for your first memories of the University – at Open Days and on your enrolment at Leeds. Here's a sample of your responses.

"The duplex rooms in Henry Price seemed exotic in spite of a rumour that the design was based on a Swedish Prison." Dominic Page (Philosophy and Computer Science 1992)

"I remember having a pizza and chips lunch in the Refectory at the Open Day!" Emily Bird (Communications and Media 2017)

"I remember walking across the campus, starting from the lovely red brick Great Hall." Madeleine Rann (Dentistry 2021)

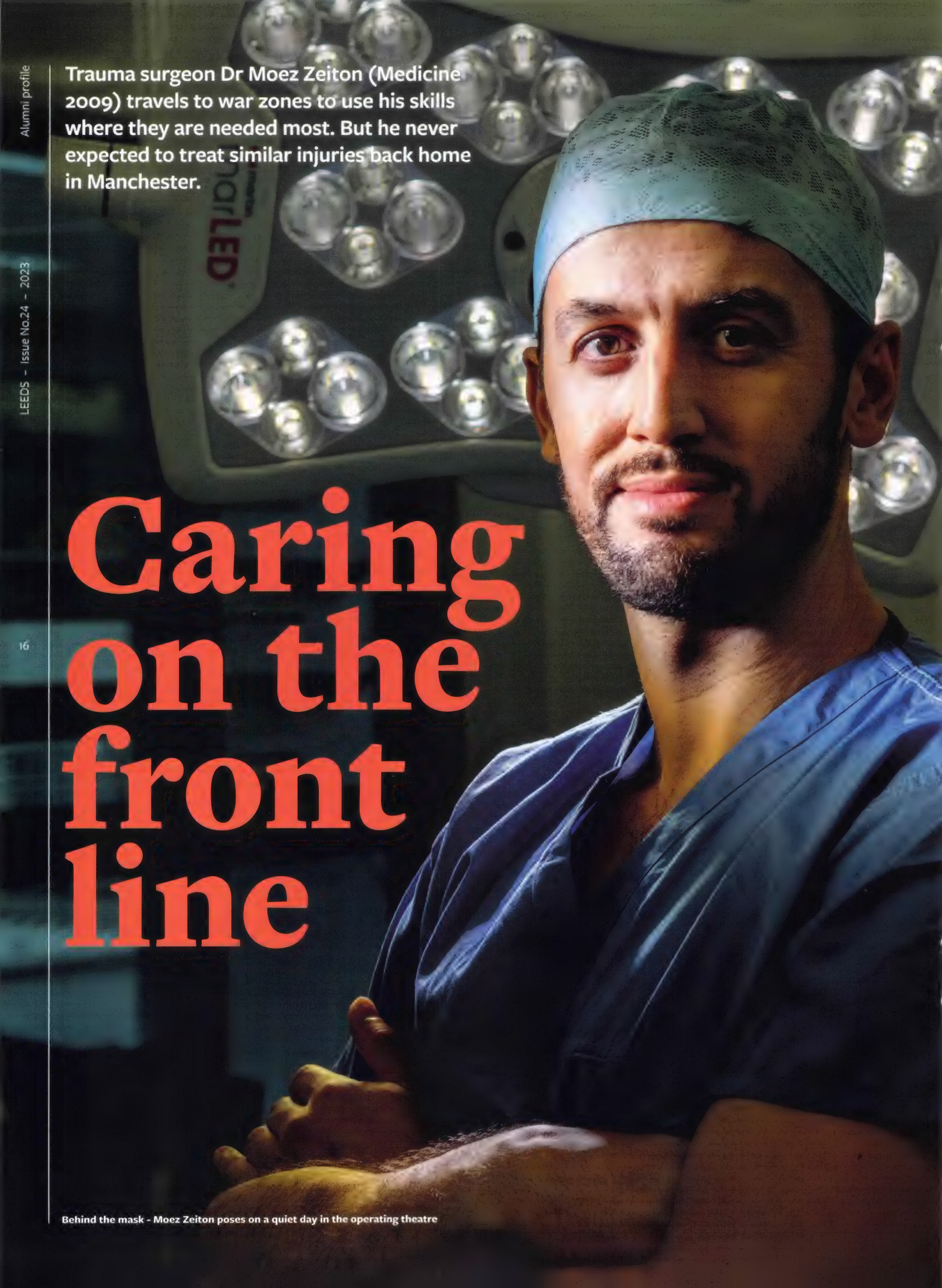
"I arrived at Leeds Central Railway Station and took the tram to the impressive Parkinson Building for my interview." Peter Ginns (Maths, Physics and Statistics 1959)

"The Union was so good – with Deep Purple and Derek and the Dominoes in my first week!" Richard Townsend (Sociology 1973)

Trauma surgeon Dr Moez Zeiton (Medicine 2009) travels to war zones to use his skills where they are needed most. But he never expected to treat similar injuries back home in Manchester.

Caring on the front line

Behind the mask - Moez Zeiton poses on a quiet day in the operating theatre



Why do you travel to warzones?” Dr Moez Zeiton pauses before he answers the question. Eventually, he shrugs: “If I don’t do it, who else is going to?”

Since graduating from Leeds in 2009, Moez has treated and saved major trauma patients on the front line in Libya and Iraq. He has travelled to Turkey and Palestine to train surgeons treating casualties. He never imagined that the trail of destruction would follow him home to Manchester. There he used his war zone experience to help treat concertgoers injured in the suicide bombing of the city’s arena in 2017.

“I was first introduced to surgery in the anatomy labs in my first year at Leeds,” Moez remembers. “The ninth floor of the Worsley Building. That’s where it all started.”

It was a subject in which Moez excelled, and after two foundation years in east Lancashire, Moez embarked on a career in surgical training. Outside of the hospital, however, world affairs played on his mind.

“I’ve always had an interest in global affairs and politics. At university, I represented Leeds in the National Union of Students where global issues often took centre stage.

“As issues around the Arab Spring came to light in 2011, I got involved with charitable initiatives, sending medical aid, writing opinion pieces and helping with advocacy work.”

The conflict in Libya was of particular importance to Moez; his parents were born in Libya, and much of his extended family live in the country. He felt compelled to do more, and when the opportunity arose, he deferred his surgery training and travelled to the war zone.

“I really jumped in at the deep end, but it was an opportunity I couldn’t turn down. I was 25, entering a hostile environment without the support or equipment I was

used to – there was no anaesthetic, for example. But whether in the UK or in a warzone, trauma requires quick thinking and multidisciplinary working. You have to put the patient at the centre and do the best you can within those limitations.”

An ability to speak Arabic, coupled with cross-cultural knowledge, gave him a skillset which proved invaluable. He switched to a non-clinical role with the Libyan Ministry of Health, co-ordinating aid and working alongside the World Health Organisation.

The experience had a profound influence on Moez. “Whether you like it or not, seeing those things will affect you as an individual,” he said. “You can keep a brave face and deal with a patient in the heat of the moment, but it is important to debrief and to speak to people about your feelings and experiences afterwards.”

“Nobody wants to be in a warzone, it’s a frankly terrifying experience.”

When he returned to surgical training in Manchester, Moez took further courses in surgery in hostile environments with the David Nott Foundation. He met doctors heading to Mosul, Iraq, to help trauma victims following the ISIS occupation in 2017, and thanks to the support of his training programme, department and colleagues, he was able to join them.

“Nobody wants to be in a war zone, it’s a frankly terrifying experience at times. But there was no question in my mind about going again. The work in Libya opened me up to the human need, and I’d developed a skillset which could make a difference.”

Now a more experienced trauma surgeon working in the field, Moez helped run practice drills to prepare for mass casualty events – of which he has seen three up close. “It’s crucial that you

have drills, policies, and job roles allocated so everyone knows their responsibilities, because clinical needs of the casualties very quickly overwhelm the clinical resources. You’ve got to make some difficult decisions to provide the greatest benefit for the greatest number of people.”

Working in a WHO-funded field hospital in Mosul, Moez and his team aimed to “preserve life and limb”. They worked to stabilise the injured, dealing with the brunt of the trauma – namely bullet injuries and shrapnel wounds, the types of injuries Moez never expected to see in the UK. But just two weeks after returning to Manchester, the Arena terror attack claimed the lives of 22 people, and left scores more with life-changing injuries. “It was tragic to see that in my home town.

“I saw the worst of humanity, but it was also the best I’ve seen the NHS function in my career. The interaction, the collaboration across hospitals, everything was dropped to help injured patients. We hadn’t seen that profile of injuries in those hospitals before.”

Moez was well versed in the treatment of such wounds, and he played a key role in the response. “The way you manage these patients is very different – a shrapnel injury is a dirty wound meaning added considerations for infection, for example, and a different surgical philosophy.”

Now a senior fellow in hip and knee surgery at the world renowned Wrightington Hospital, Moez continues to look for opportunities to make a difference. He has taken on a training role with the David Nott Foundation in the UK and further afield.

“I’ve taught Syrian surgeons in Turkey and also Palestine,” he says. “Doing so allows me to pass on skills and learn from fellow surgeons. It’s humbling and also important; we have a collective responsibility to help those in need.”

The story so far...

2009

Moez graduates from the University of Leeds

2011

Travels to Libya to treat patients during the Arab Spring

2017

Works in front line trauma surgery in Mosul, Iraq

2017

Manchester Arena attack hits, and Moez treats patients in local hospitals

2022

Travels to Turkey and Palestine to train doctors working in hostile environments

Over several centuries, humans have changed the face of Ingleborough, one of Yorkshire's most beautiful and rugged landscapes. Now the University is part of a consortium working to help nature recover.

High in the Yorkshire Dales, a partnership of conservation groups, local people and volunteers is bringing back rare plants, trees and wildlife, and helping nature to become more resilient in the face of a changing climate.

At 723 metres above sea level, Ingleborough is the second highest point in the county, and with Pen-y-Ghent and Wharfedale forms Yorkshire's famous Three Peaks.

Ingleborough's landscape has changed dramatically over the past few hundred years, as woodland was cleared and farming became more intensive – with significant impacts on wildlife and biodiversity. Just pockets of native woodland and natural habitat remain. Peat bogs are heavily degraded, their value as a carbon store diminished by the channels dug to drain the land.

Now an ambitious conservation project is creating a wilder future for this beautiful and rugged landscape.

Working with local communities, the Wild Ingleborough project is restoring the land from the valley floor to the mountain top, planting thousands of native trees, nurturing areas of wild plants and flowers, restoring the peat bogs, and reconnecting patches of habitat to allow wildlife to once again thrive.

Working with landowners Natural England and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, the University is a key partner in the project, alongside the United Bank of Carbon, the Woodland Trust and the World Wildlife Fund. Working with neighbouring landowners, farmers, communities and schools, the partners are pooling their skills, knowledge and energy to restore around 1,200 hectares of land. Researchers from the University are working to document the benefits for both wildlife and people, through carbon capture, flood reduction and job creation.

Picture by Joseph Gray, World Wildlife Fund.



Sowing the seeds of a wilder future



Want to get involved?

The partnership is welcoming volunteers to Wild Ingleborough to help with a wide variety of tasks such as tree planting, dry-stone walling and butterfly surveying. A number of alumni have already joined the efforts – so why not join them?

To find out more, visit:
bit.ly/UoLWildVolunteer



Chance encounter changed my life

Siddha Maloo (MSc International Business 2017) channels her passion for the University into inspiring a new generation to follow in her footsteps.



“Mixing with students from so many countries, cooking and eating with them and sharing our cultures was such an enriching experience.”



**Become a
Leeds volunteer**

Sign up to become a Leeds volunteer today, and support those who follow in your footsteps.

Visit leeds.ac.uk/alumni-volunteering

A chance encounter on holiday proved a turning point in Siddha Maloo's life. “I fell into conversation with someone at the top of the Eiffel Tower,” she says. “He'd graduated from Leeds and I was so impressed by what he said about the University.”

From the beautiful city of Udaipur in Rajasthan – considered by many to be India's most romantic destination – Siddha had initially studied closer to home. “I learned accountancy, statistics and law, but I always wanted to study abroad.”

Back in her Parisian hotel room, she looked up the University online: “I was struck straight away by how Leeds caters for the needs of international students.” She soon decided to apply.

Siddha thrived on her course. Her high grades led her to be selected as an International Student Ambassador, with funding to spend a term at Copenhagen Business School. But the social and cultural aspects of her time at Leeds had an equally profound impact. “Leeds gave me my personality,” she says. “Mixing with students from so many countries, cooking and eating with them and sharing our cultures was such an enriching experience. It gave us networking and communication skills, of course, but it also broadened our horizons.”

She began to write poetry: “I was inspired by the beauty of the city, the daffodils, the view from my window in St Marks Flats, the walk between there and the business school. Leeds is such a wonderful city, with such history and culture.”

Siddha soaked up these fresh influences: “I've read that when encountering a new culture people exhibit one of three different kinds of behaviour. They continue following their own way of life, become wholly immersed in the local culture, or adopt a balance between the two – trying new things but not forgetting their own cultural roots. I always wanted to be in the third category.”

Soon after graduating, Siddha began sharing her story to encourage others to benefit from the same rich experiences. “I gave presentations to prospective students in India with information and photographs from my own time at the University. I help them to visualise how their life will be at Leeds.”

After a spell teaching and researching as an Assistant Professor in an Indian University, she moved to Toronto to work for a stockbroking company. But through mentoring on Leeds's volunteering programme she continues to inspire others to follow her path: “I try to get across how students can make the most of their time in a foreign land.” She has also returned to campus to give talks to current business school students. The University website shares her blogs, articles and videos offering tips on how international students can excel in their studies.

Siddha credits Leeds with equipping her for the latest phase of her life. “I didn't have friends or relatives in Canada. Without Leeds I would never have had the courage to move here.

“I would never be the person I have become if I hadn't come to Leeds.”

Leeds has 312,000 alumni around the world. This is what some of you are up to.

Alumni news



Holiday nightmare – A scene from Louise Doughty's drama Crossfire

Sunshine break sparked TV drama

It was while lying on a hotel sunbed in the Canaries that author **Louise Doughty** (English 1984) came up with the idea for BBC drama **Crossfire**, which follows three families caught in a terror attack at their resort.

The series, starring Keeley Hawes, is Louise's first venture into TV scriptwriting, though her best-selling seventh novel *Apple Tree Yard* was adapted into a hit 2017 BBC series.

"Crossfire is about ordinary people caught up in an extraordinary situation and how they behave," says Louise. "Some behave more heroically than others; some are able to think things through calmly and others behave very impulsively. I hope that viewers will be forced to think: what choice would I make, and would I be capable of choice or would I behave entirely on impulse?"

Samaritan's honour

The work of long-serving volunteer **Monica Wyatt** (Interpreting: British Sign Language 2009) was recognised with a special award to help mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June. Monica has volunteered with the Samaritans for nearly 37 years, providing life-saving emotional support to people who contact their helplines. She has also volunteered in the field of mental health and in the deaf community.

The Queen's Jubilee Awards were made to 490 people nationally, celebrating outstanding volunteers who make a difference every day.



Volunteer's honour –
Monica Wyatt

By Royal Appointment

As Communications Secretary at Kensington Palace, **Lee Thompson** (Politics and Parliamentary Studies 2009) is responsible for the public image of William and Kate – their Royal Highnesses The Prince and Princess of Wales.

Appointed just two months before the death of the Queen, Lee took up the role after a spell as Vice President of Global Communications and Strategic Partnerships at media and entertainment group NBCUniversal. He had previously spent six years with the group's business news network, CNBC.



Supporting the
Prince and Princess
– Lee Thompson

An Icon in Vogue

Multidisciplinary creative artist **Eniafe Momodu** (Economics & Philosophy 2019) was recently profiled by *Vogue* magazine as part of their Youthquake series, which spotlighted Generation-Z artists, musicians, actors and designers from across the world who are "radically reimagining the future" through their "boundless self-expression".

Eniafe, who works predominantly in the fashion and creative industry in Lagos, Nigeria, is described by *Vogue* as a 'style icon', known for wearing colourful, eye-catching fabrics shaped into dramatic silhouettes. "What I wear isn't really about how I look," he tells *Vogue*. "I'm far more concerned what a garment says about me and what it says about culture, gender, sustainability and other facets of our society."



Style icon –
Eniafe Momodu



Weaving a new future

Cousins **William Gaunt** (Textile Management 1988) and **John Gaunt** (Textile Management 1998) have been instrumental in breathing new life into the Victorian mill which has been in their family for six generations.

Founded in 1829, Sunny Bank Mills in Farsley, west Leeds, has been re-invented as an exciting new work, leisure and arts space. It is now home to more than 90 companies as well as restaurants and an art gallery.

Sunny Bank's rich archive safeguards the history of the mill, preserving the traditions of weaving through a vast collection of textiles, objects and stories. "We've restored 100-year-old looms which were originally from the University – and now run weaving courses on them," says William. "These are the very looms which I learned on, all those years ago."

Jane's football career

For almost 25 years, **Jane Bateman** (French and German 1987) has been one of the most senior women in English football.

As The Football Association's Head of International Relations, Jane has built networks across European and global football, taken a key role in bids to host major tournaments, and delivered programmes harnessing the sport's power as a vehicle for social change.

She is now the International Relations Lead for the joint UK and Ireland bid to host Euro 2028. In addition, she is a Trustee of the National Football Museum which works to preserve and promote the heritage of the game, and a Trustee of the Sir Bobby Charlton Foundation, which supports victims of conflict worldwide.



A leader at the FA – Jane Bateman

Poet's honour

Ian Duhig (English and History of Art 1987) was awarded the £15,000 Hawthornden Prize for Literature for his New and Selected Poems, which draws on material from 30 years' work by the Leeds-based poet. Ian said he was "truly elated" to hear of the award: "It's a real boost, and now I'm pushing three score years and ten, an encouragement to keep writing. I would like to think it is also an encouragement to other writers who started late, like me, to feel they can still grow and learn and be recognised for that."

Bradford's new Chancellor

Celebrated broadcaster **Anita Rani** (Broadcasting 2000) has been announced as the University of Bradford's next Chancellor. Anita, who was born and raised in Bradford, said the accolade was the "biggest honour of my life so far", and added her time at Leeds "gave me so much".

The Countryfile presenter will be installed to her new role in spring 2023. She added: "Who would have thought that a girl from a Punjabi family who grew up in Bradford would one day hold this position?" Anita wrote about her upbringing in her debut book, *The Right Sort Of Girl*, which was published last year and became a Sunday Times Bestseller.



Geology and life

Geologist **Catherine Russell** (PhD Fluvial Sedimentology 2017) was awarded a prestigious Fulbright-Lloyds scholarship to investigate the deep impacts of the human-modified landscape on day-to-day living in New Orleans.

She investigates the properties of man-made rivers when compared to natural systems, and the consequences of our activities on reservoir water quality. Catherine adapts traditional geological techniques to modern environments and investigates how plastic behaves as a sedimentary particle.

Helping students connect

An app developed by **Georgia Wheadon** (Geography and Sociology, Industrial, 2019) is helping students make new friends and thrive during their time at university.

Umii enables users to tailor their profile to include information on their course, their interests, and their membership of various societies, to encourage meaningful matches with others. Each profile is verified by the student's university to assure users that all members are genuine.



Charging forward

As boss of EO Charging, one of the UK's largest manufacturers of charging solutions for electric vehicles, entrepreneur **Charlie Jardine** (Design 2013) is helping create the infrastructure for a transport revolution.

With the UK ending the sale of new petrol and diesel vehicles from 2030 – and the recent rapid increase in the cost of fuel – there is already a growing need for individual drivers and company fleets to transition to electric.

Based in Stowmarket, Suffolk, but with a growing international reach, EO works with companies such as Amazon, Tesco and DHL, designing and installing chargers and cloud-based management software to help them support their own growing fleets of electric vehicles.

Leading the Society

Renowned author and psychologist **Nicky Hayes** (Psychology 1975, MEd 1981) was elected President of the British Psychological Society in July.

Following her graduation, Nicky had a spell as a social worker before training as a teacher and being among the first to teach Britain's newly-introduced psychology A-level in the early 1980s. She was a key figure in the establishment of the Association for the Teaching of Psychology, which remains the UK's main provider of professional development for teachers of pre-degree psychology.

She has served on a number of examination boards, taught research methods to students at undergraduate, Master's and doctoral level – and has written more than 25 books on different aspects of psychology, including general textbooks and “teach yourself” guides.



Psychology
pioneer –
Nicky Hayes



An ancient
honour –
Michael
Copestake

Sheriff Michael

As High Sheriff of Derbyshire, **Michael Copestake** (Law 1973) holds a title originating from before the Norman Conquest – and is entitled to wear this splendid regalia.

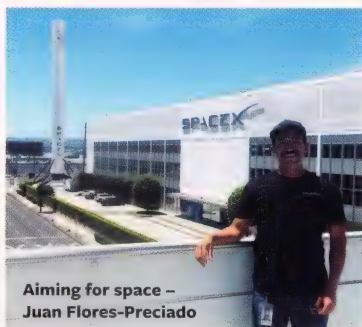
The original “Shire Reeves” enforced the King's interests, notably in tax collection and law enforcement, their notoriety immortalised through the tales of Robin Hood.

Today, the High Sheriff is an unpaid Royal appointment for a single year – and corporate lawyer Michael is one of 55 serving in counties across England and Wales. They support the work of the police, probation, prison and emergency services and other agencies involved in crime prevention, particularly among young people. “Many parts of Derbyshire suffer from low social mobility,” said Michael, who is focussed on giving presentations to school children on careers and aspiration.

Safer spacecraft

As a Surface Engineer at SpaceX, **Juan Flores-Preciado** (PhD Mechanical Engineering 2010) is a key figure in Elon Musk's satellite communications and space exploration group.

At Leeds, Juan's research project developed coatings to protect engineering components and infrastructure from both corrosion and erosion. With a responsibility for coatings, tribology, lubrication and corrosion, he now channels that expertise into protecting spacecraft for the Californian company whose long-term goal is to colonize Mars.



Aiming for space –
Juan Flores-Preciado



Government position – Nusrat Ghani

MP's business role

Nusrat Ghani (MA Politics and International Studies 1996) was among the first appointments made in September by then Prime Minister Liz Truss. The Conservative MP for Wealden was appointed as Minister of State at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, a role she retains under new PM Rishi Sunak. A former Government Whip, Nusrat was previously at the Department for Transport. Before politics, she worked for charities Age UK and Breakthrough Breast Cancer, and for the BBC.

Changing the story

Across the globe, young people's futures are overwhelmingly altered by the impact of conflict. 170 collaborations across 15 countries are helping to empower youth to change their futures using the arts.

Colombia

- Tales of the future: stimulating creativity in young people
- YouthLEAD: fostering youth peace-building
- What is the truth? Using music and arts to de-construct collective memories – and envisage a different future

Venezuela

- Thought and freedom in Venezuela: using arts education to move beyond violence



500m

young people

live on less than \$2 a day



62%

increase

in the youth population in the poorest countries by 2050

A new future for children of conflict

A visit to South Africa proved a watershed moment for Professor Paul Cooke, Principal Investigator on the Changing the Story project. He travelled to Safepark, an out-of-school club supporting vulnerable young people, where they explored how to increase resilience through film.

"We used films about South Africa to get young people to reflect on the reality of their lives," he says. "The young people we worked with generally felt that the films did reflect the realities of danger and violence, but they noticed that they tended to have sad endings."

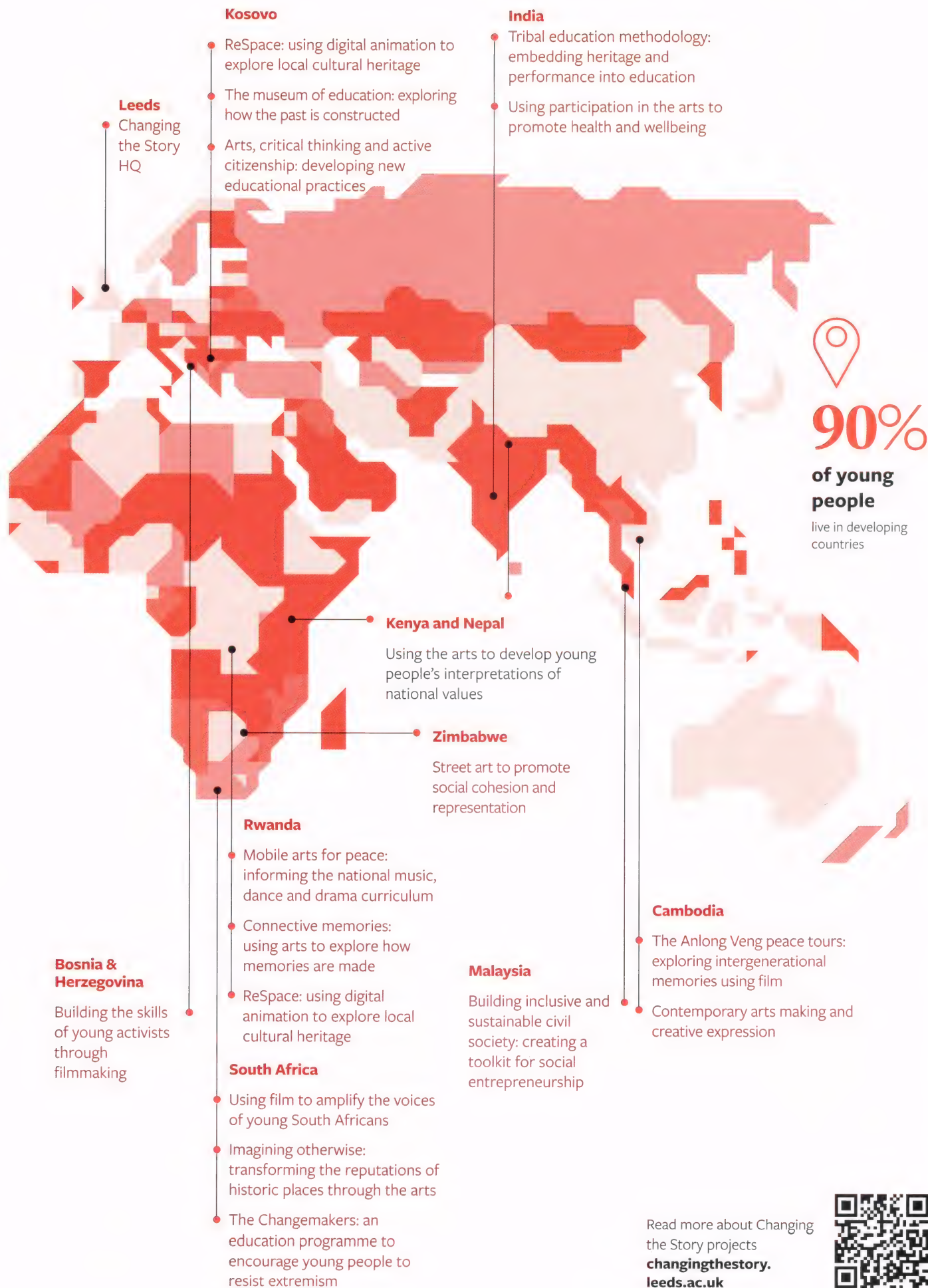
They didn't see their lives that way, and when they created their own films, they wanted to change the story. "And so the name was born."

Over the last four years, Changing the Story has created a platform to continue doing exactly that. By using art-based methods – film creation, animation, street art – hundreds of researchers and young people have developed youth-led interventions to support community resilience in post-conflict settings.

Although harnessing the power of the arts to engage young people is not a new concept, Changing the Story went further: "There hasn't

been enough research into the specific contribution young people can make to global development," says Paul. "We wanted to make projects that were accountable to young people, not just designed by them."

"It is impossible to deliver on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals if we don't take young people seriously," he says. "Particularly in developing countries, they are ignored and they're not engaged. So all our projects were youth-led, with our youth research board playing a key role in project management." →

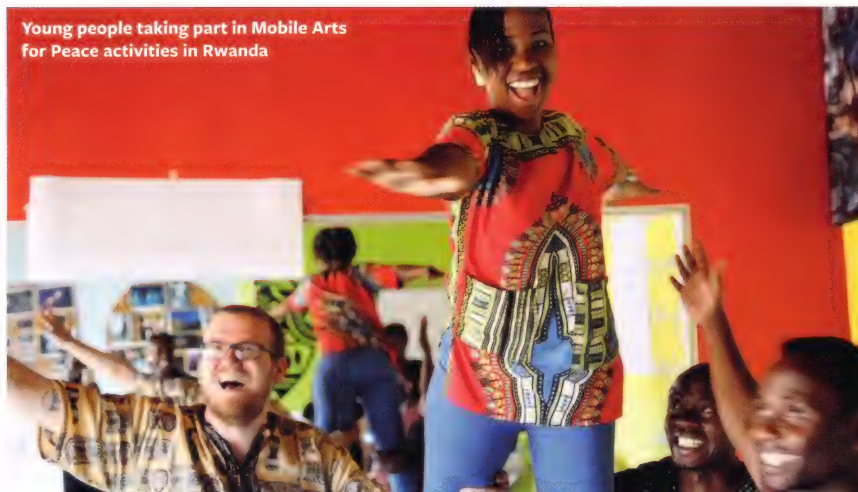


In Zimbabwe, for example, researchers used street art to promote representation among marginalized rural Zimbabwean youth, providing opportunities to uncover and amplify hidden histories. In Kerala, India, tribal heritage, oral and performance traditions were used to develop a curriculum for indigenous tribes, decolonising learning for the group. In Malaysia, investigators studied how the arts can help develop entrepreneurial skills.

“It was the first large-scale comparative study of how civil society organisations work with young people in conflict affected societies. We started at grassroots, working with young people to then make regional and national policy impact. What began as five projects soon grew across the globe.

“The project officially finished in 2022, but the true legacy is now beginning to be seen.”

One of those key legacies was in Rwanda, where researcher Professor Ananda Breed, a project partner from the University of Lincoln, established Mobile Arts for Peace. “Many countries have an imperative to include creativity in their curriculum but have no mechanism for how,” she explains. “We built an informal grassroots network which then helped us to introduce the arts into schools and eventually the national curriculum.



Young people taking part in Mobile Arts for Peace activities in Rwanda

“Once in place, we were then able to look at the value of different arts practices, and how to use art to deal with problematic pasts and historical trauma.”

As Paul notes, it was one of many projects which provided an impetus for further study: “The nature of it means you don’t know where you’re going to get to. Changing the Story findings and theories grew as a platform and people now incorporate our research findings into their own work.”

But Leeds alumni support was critical to the completion of the project. “Because of funding cuts to the Arts and Humanities Research Council during COVID-19, we were unsure how long we could continue. Alumni support gave us that reassurance and meant we could follow a long-term strategic plan.

“That funding has made a material difference to hundreds of young people’s lives in the places we’ve worked.”

Paul recently travelled to Iraq, working with the UN to implement Changing the Story methodology to help overcome the challenge of being a minority in the country. Oxfam and the British Council have also been using Changing the Story’s research findings to inform youth-focussed strategy.

“Leeds facilitated a project which has had a huge impact globally, while supporting hundreds of people to develop their careers in practice and in academia,” says Paul.

“It’s changed everything.”

Truth-telling among former child soldiers in Colombia



Former child combatants at the playground at Benposta, a refuge for child survivors of conflict and a partner in the Changing the Story project. Credit: Mat Charles

In collaboration with El Rosario University, this Colombian-based project sought to facilitate the inclusion of former child soldiers in the country’s official narrative of the civil war.

“Former child soldiers are susceptible to PTSD and depression and can often find it difficult to establish social bonds and speak about their experiences,” says project lead Dr Mat Charles of El Rosario University.

“Ex-combatants can also display high levels of distrust in the state and its institutions. Our project aimed to build trust and foster the inclusion of these marginalised voices through creative methods, in particular animation.”

Young people interviewed former child soldiers, before turning the interviews into theatre monologues, and later animations. “What they created

was a series of powerful animations telling the experiences of the former child soldiers. The intergenerational dialogue was designed to help young people understand the history, but also contributes towards de-radicalisation in the next generation.”

An ensuing documentary was nominated for a number of awards including the Arts and Humanities Research Council research film prize, and the project led to longer term initiatives – such as development opportunities in journalism skills.

To learn more about this project visit bit.ly/UOLColombiaSoldiers or scan this QR code.





Energy and inspiration

A long-running partnership is helping inner city children to learn, achieve and thrive.

“I’m surrounded by young people who have such high aspirations. I feed off that energy and it motivates me even more to help them.”

As Centre Leader at **IntoUniversity** Leeds South, Ellen Griffiths supports young people in one of the most disadvantaged areas of the country. Established in 2015 as a partnership between the University and national charity **IntoUniversity**, the centre works with children, teenagers and young adults in Beeston and Holbeck. A second Leeds centre in Harehills is now in its ninth year.

The work of both centres has been made possible by the support of alumni and other donors.

Young people from Britain’s poorest backgrounds face a considerable educational disadvantage. In Leeds, only

20% of children who are entitled to free school meals progress to university, compared to 37% of all children on free school meals nationally. In some parts of Leeds, such as Beeston, the figure is as low as 12%.

To address this inequality, the two centres work with over 2,500 young people each year providing a programme of academic support, motivation and encouragement. Through after-school sessions, themed study weeks, and mentoring by Leeds students, their innovative programme enables young people to develop vital skills, achieve their academic potential and realise their ambitions.

“We’re developing their passion for learning – and ultimately getting them really excited for the future,” says Ellen.

Only

20%

of Leeds children who are entitled to free school meals progress to university

Watch young people talking about their experiences at **IntoUniversity**.



From organising a Wings concert with a few hours' notice, to being one of the busiest bassoonists in West Yorkshire, Paul (studied Engineering 1969-72) and Diana Monahan (Maths 1974) reflect on what Leeds means to them.

I was dragged out of a lecture to come to the telephone," says Paul Monahan, recalling a memorable day from his time leading the Leeds University Union stage crew. "It was Paul McCartney. Wings had been in Newcastle and wanted to break their journey to London by playing on campus that afternoon."

This was February 1972, and the then LUU stage manager was in his final year reading Electronic Engineering at Leeds. And somehow, he made it happen:

"I had to find the crew and persuade the refectory staff to end lunch early so we could get the set built. By 1pm, word had got round and about 1,000 people were queuing for tickets."

Paul had arrived at Leeds in 1969. "My school in Reading pushed pupils to apply to Oxbridge. I knew that wasn't for me and wanted to be further from home."

He soon realised he'd chosen the wrong course at Leeds: "It was very theoretical, and the new 'modern' maths we'd learned in school was completely unsuitable."

As someone who had been building electrical equipment since his early teens – including prototype disco lighting which pulsed in time to the music – Paul was frustrated at the lack of practical application in the course. "It had nothing to do with real world electronics."

Even so, he stayed on the course, and by the time Diana arrived two years later to study maths, Paul had thrown himself into his work with the stage crew, helping at events in the Union and halls of residence. The couple met by chance during Diana's first week when she was looking for the friends she was due to meet in the Charles Morris Hall bar. She too had decided against Oxbridge: "I'd been at a mixed school, and I didn't fancy a single-sex college."

"I had to announce to a huge hall that David Bowie refused to play. After the announcement I just ran away and hid."

Diana excelled as a musician, graduating at school from recorder to bassoon. And at Leeds, she supplemented her grant as a semi-professional musician: "There was a big demand for bassoon players. I played in five different orchestras – I was rehearsing almost every night and playing in concerts and shows on the weekend."

It was a momentous era. "Our time as students followed closely on 'the

summer of love' and the 1968 student riots in Paris," says Paul. "Society was becoming more tolerant and open."

At the same time, a new swathe of concrete buildings was being rapidly constructed to accommodate an increasing student population. Bands such as The Who, Led Zeppelin and Genesis were putting Leeds on the rock map, and Paul saw most of them at close quarters. Even so, there were some drawbacks to being in charge: "I had to announce to a huge crowd that David Bowie refused to play. After the announcement, I just ran away and hid."

Diana would help backstage: "I used to wear ear defenders; it was too loud for me. I was more interested in classical music anyway."

Despite Diana's help with his maths, Paul failed to graduate. As much as he loved his days managing the biggest concerts LUU has ever seen, he decided not to pursue a career in the music industry, eventually moving into computing. He worked on installations, programming and systems analysis at a time when the industry was still in its infancy.

Meanwhile, Diana was focused on her own education, graduating in 1974, completing a PGCE and starting work as a maths teacher, before specialising

Talking about our generation

in teaching children with visual impairments. The couple married in 1976, initially living in Leeds before moving to the West Midlands where they lived on a canal narrowboat while pursuing their careers.

After eventually leaving his career in computing, Paul channelled his energies into a business supplying services for narrowboats and carrying cargo such as coal, sand and beer. Since selling the business the couple have settled into a canalside home in Hebden Bridge in the Pennines, though they retain a boat on which they explore Britain's 2,000 miles of waterway.

Diana is a pillar of the local history society and gives regular talks on aspects of Hebden Bridge's past. Paul was a local councillor for many years and served a term as Mayor.

And in retirement they have reconnected with Leeds – first as VIP guests when The Who returned in 2006 and then as attendees at the University's Meet The Researchers events, which showcase key areas of research. "We were really impressed by the work in using microbubbles to target cancers and in stroke rehabilitation robotics," says Paul.

The couple have now pledged a gift in their Will to support postdoctoral research in science and medicine. "I may not have graduated, but Leeds was still the foundation for our lives," says Paul. "We don't have children and so leaving a legacy seemed an obvious way to support the University long into the future."

Brotherton Circle

Find out more about leaving a gift to the University in your will and about the Brotherton Circle, a group of alumni and other supporters who have made this special pledge to the University.



Supporting students to achieve

You've been by my side all the way

At 15, Meegan Worcester lost her mother and soon became estranged from her father. Meegan's diary details how the support of the University and its donors has been there at every step from application to graduation.

25th November 2017

Applying for university is hard. Because I haven't lived in the UK for long, universities want to see bank statements and proof of previous addresses. I wish mum was here to help!

But the University of Leeds has said that as I have a British passport and meet other criteria, I am a Home Student and they don't need all these documents! They were so lovely on the phone as well. It helped me feel less overwhelmed with my situation.

Smile
😊



14th January 2018

I'm definitely applying to the University of Leeds! I had another lovely chat with them on the phone, and they said I fall under something called the 'estrangement student' category. I've never heard of this before, but it summarises my experience so far at college.

Because I'm estranged from my family I'm eligible for a £3,000 per year means-tested scholarship! Hopefully I'll get accepted and it will mean I won't have added financial worries at university.

16th August 2018

I can't believe it! I really couldn't believe my eyes when I saw my A-Level results A, A, A*!

And just beneath the results I could see the University of Leeds logo. I remember scrolling through the webpage for hours looking at the BSc Sustainability and Environmental Management course, and now I've finally been accepted! I just hope my luck continues and I'm also chosen for the scholarship.



3rd September 2018

All week I've been checking my emails and I finally got it today!

I was a bit terrified at first to open the email, but I was delighted with the outcome – I got the scholarship! I couldn't stop talking all day. I'm so excited and almost too grateful to put it into words. I told my brother immediately when I got home, and we celebrated with a takeaway pizza.



24th September 2018

My brother helped me move into Lupton Halls today. I know it's exciting and a new chapter, but I can't help feeling overwhelmed and a bit alone now he has gone. It rained all day, and we got soaked in Headingley after getting off the train.

I've just heard some of my flat mates moving in and being told by their parents: "If you need anything call me" and "I'll pop down next week, just to see how you are." I so wish mum was here.



28th September 2018

It's Freshers Week! I got an email the other day from the Plus Programme, a support network at Leeds for students that are less represented in higher education. Today I went to one of their socials – a free meal at Nandos with lots of other really nice students. I've never been to Nandos before, but I got recommendations from the other students about what was good on the menu. Everyone talked about their backgrounds and where they grew up. There was another girl who is also estranged from her family, she was lovely.



1st October 2018

It's the first day of term and I had my first lecture in the Conference Auditorium, a massive room with over 150 people! Everyone had their laptops, typing their notes. I was just writing things down in a notepad.

I made a few new friends today as well! I felt a bit nervous chatting to everyone, and a bit overwhelmed thinking this is going to be my home for the next three years, but I'll take it one day at a time and see how it goes.



19th September 2019

Here we go again! My exam results were great and now I'm back for the second year. Truthfully, it's hard to imagine how I'd have got so far without the amazing support that I've been given at Leeds.

21st May 2019

I've been so busy lately! It was my first exam today. Exams at university don't seem to be too different to ones at college, but the concepts are definitely a lot harder! I don't feel too worried, I've been revising for weeks and felt prepared and I'm really excited to see what the results are in a few weeks' time.



10th August 2021

I've just finished my industrial placement working on a research project about assessing a Clear Air Zone in Bradford and analysing its effects on school children's health. It has been awesome to get some research and additional work experience in before I graduate. Better still, I've been able to continue this research and use the data I collected in my dissertation!

14th July 2022

I can't believe I'm finally here. My graduation day. My partner, brother and his girlfriend all came along to cheer me on, and I felt so proud of everything I have achieved – graduating with a 2:1, all the friends I have made and the things I've done while at Leeds. And I'm so excited to get started with my Master's in October, also at Leeds. The University truly feels like home.



These excerpts are just a few examples of how alumni generosity has influenced Meegan's University experience – enabling her to become part of the Leeds community and find success here. Meegan is just one of the thousands of students who have been supported through a scholarship – each with their own stories.

Scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/Leeds_Students_22 to read more about the impact of this support.



Your Link to Leeds

Almost 100,000 alumni have received a call from a current Leeds student as part of our telephone outreach programme.

For Katrin Bogdanova (Psychology 2020), working as a caller was a highlight of her time at Leeds: "It was incredible to speak to alumni about their experiences and see first-hand the generosity of our community. I felt so proud to help other students in my own small way."

Current students are calling throughout the year, to talk about your time at Leeds and how you can join our fantastic supporter community. This could be through donations to provide scholarships and other support to students like Meegan, or by volunteering time and expertise to help them develop skills and confidence.

"My favourite call was with an alum who worked in Clinical Psychology – a field that I was really interested in getting into. She suggested that I consider working as a Mental Health Support Worker, to learn the ins and outs of the profession and make connections. She was so generous with her time and talked me through her own experiences. I left the call energised, and after graduation took her advice, working as a mental health support worker in Leeds, before starting further study to follow this career path."



Katrin Bogdanova

The team would love to be your link to Leeds, so please update your phone number here bit.ly/Update_Leeds

They will call from **(+44)113 251 0001** – a number which cannot take incoming calls. If you do receive a missed call from this number and want to check whether it was us, **please email give@leeds.ac.uk**.

Postgraduate researchers are addressing some of the biggest challenges facing society. Meet some of them here.

Life in the engine room

Ciara Higham

Understanding COVID-19 Transmission

"In my final year of University I toyed with the idea of doing a PhD, but I thought I wasn't clever enough."

Having graduated with a First in maths and physics at Manchester, Ciara Higham should scarcely have doubted her abilities.

After briefly working in a call centre, Ciara realised how much she missed education, and was recommended to join the fluid dynamics research group at Leeds.

"I'm looking at the risks of COVID-19 transmission in shared toilets, such as in workplaces. Faeces may contain infectious viruses, and when the toilet is flushed these can become airborne or land on surfaces. I'm researching whether these could present an infection hazard, and this has implications for other diseases."

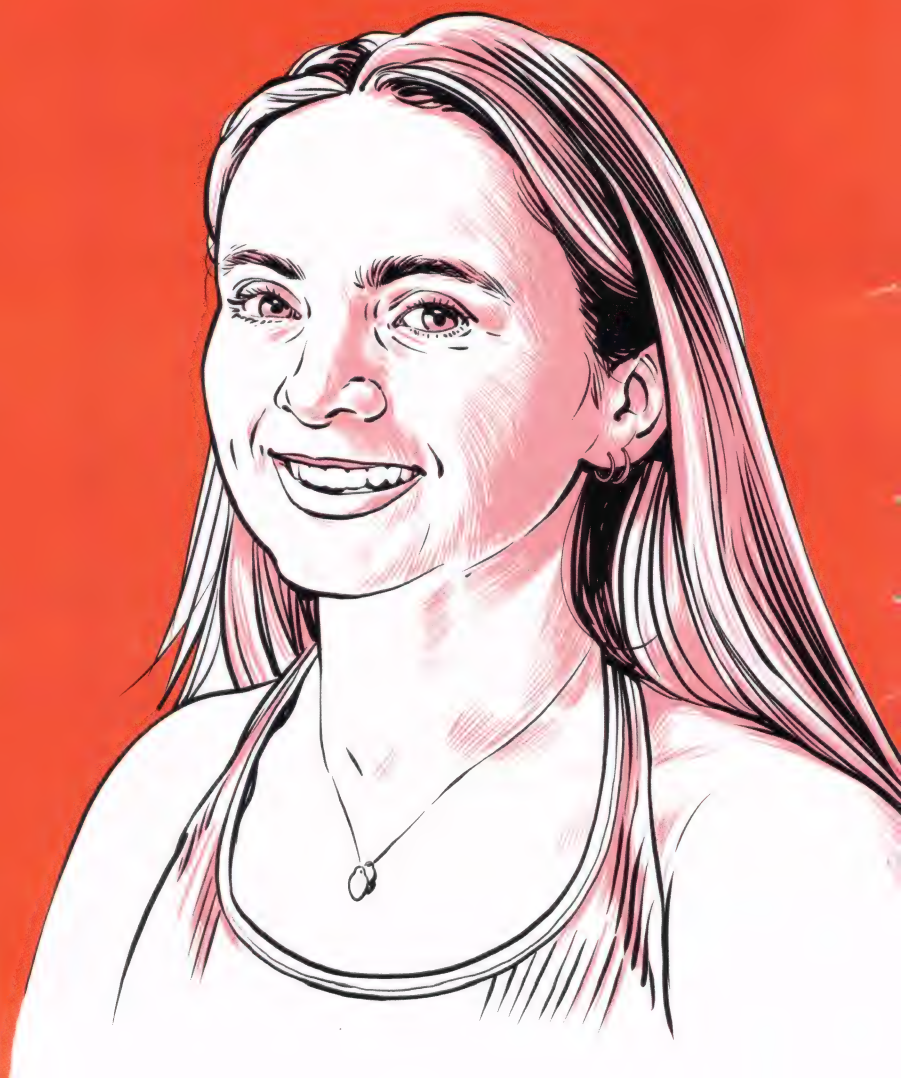
Her research is supported by donor Phil Dolan and among her supervisors is Professor Cath Noakes, who advised the government on infection risks during the pandemic.

Ciara is a passionate ambassador for the STEM subjects and volunteers with a group inspiring young people and their families through maths. "This may be something I could do as a career in future, but I'm also interested in industrial research or work that informs public health. The field is so broad."



Faeces may contain infectious viruses

Ciara is researching whether these could present an infection hazard.





Professor Luke Windsor
Dean of the Leeds Doctoral College

“Our postgraduate researchers are the engine room of research.”

As Dean of the Leeds Doctoral College, Professor Luke Windsor is a passionate advocate for postgraduate research, and for the impact doctoral researchers can make, both during their three or four years of study and in their subsequent careers.

“Postgraduate researchers bring a lot to the University, both supporting the wider projects of our established researchers and by examining new areas of inquiry,” he says. “The examples on these pages show some of the amazing work our researchers are doing in areas such as medicine and engineering.

“There’s a misconception that once people have completed their doctorate they move into academe. Some do of course, and they’re part of the next generation of academics, but they also move into industry, government agencies and charities. They bring their new employers a wealth of expertise, rationality and problem-solving skills.”



In this video, he discusses the importance of this work – and the support which the University gives to PhD researchers.

Cameron Rout Hydrogen as a heavy vehicle fuel

“I knew I wouldn’t go into academe,” says Cameron Rout, now nearing the end of a PhD which has given him the expertise to land an exciting role in a fast-growing industry.

After achieving a First in chemical engineering at Teesside University and a Master’s at Leeds, Cameron looked at options for postgraduate research:

“Bioenergy really interested me. Oil and gas won’t be around forever; companies need low-carbon solutions to reduce their carbon footprint.”

Funded jointly by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council and Barry Slavin (Law 1968), Cameron is examining hydrogen as an alternative to diesel for heavy duty transport, including buses and trucks. “I’m comparing hydrogen with diesel and electric to assess the potential economic and environmental savings.”

He’s shown it can be viable: “Hydrogen is much cleaner than diesel at the exhaust, while the extra weight of the batteries, and emissions from the extraction of materials to make them, offset the benefits of electric vehicles.”

Cameron is glad to see the finish line in sight: “I’m hoping to complete my research soon, and in the New Year I start work with Protium, one of the biggest hydrogen companies in the UK.”



Oil and gas won’t be around forever

Cameron is examining low-carbon transport solutions to help companies reduce their carbon footprint.



Mofwe Kapulu Water, sanitation and health



“Poor sanitation is a daily reality for millions worldwide,” says Mofwe Kapulu. Changing that, particularly in his home country of Zambia, is his driving passion.

“Only 14 per cent of the population in the capital Lusaka have access to mains sewerage,” he says. “Those in the poorest areas mostly depend on pit latrines.”

Mofwe studied engineering and then a Master’s in rural water supply at the University of Zambia, before becoming a lecturer there, working on projects aimed at improving local sanitation. Then a scholarship funded by Philip Tracy (Chemical Engineering 1972) enabled him to study with the renowned Water Sanitation and Health group at Leeds.

His work examined how to provide safe sanitation for a city like Lusaka. “I looked at costs, policy, regulations and planning, and developed a framework for utility companies and policymakers to make informed decisions. It’s feasible to do something about it; making incremental improvements to the existing systems can make a real difference.”

Now back in Zambia, Mofwe’s work is making that impact: “I’m helping Lusaka City Council integrate water and sanitation services planning, and hopefully my research will also improve quality of life in other cities which use the findings.”



Gothic Hallowe'en
– Adam 'Zed'
Robinson



Live at Leeds

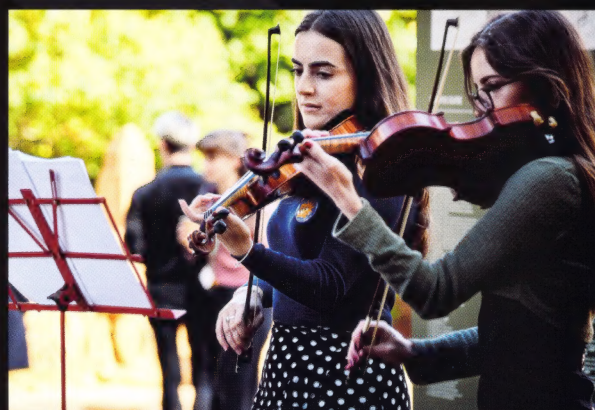
From sand sculpture to sketching classes, folk music to fire eating and jazz to juggling, a vibrant programme of colourful arts events has been celebrating the varied talents of University staff, students and alumni.

Held throughout the autumn term, Campus Live was an exciting programme of activity which saw a broad range of events popping up in unexpected places across the University. It was also a celebration of a University returning to its normal, busy, noisy, lively self, following almost three years of disruption caused by COVID-19.

A performance by Tamsin Cook and Keziah Berelson (both MA English 2018) of Mafwa Theatre examined how it feels to be a new arrival in a strange place, while Adam Robinson (English 2006, MA 2008) gripped a Hallowe'en audience with candlelit ghost stories told by his character The Storyteller.



Ten tonnes of sand – and hours of delicate work – went into creating this magnificent sculpture outside the Edward Boyle Library





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